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enraged with the Aristarchus of the Gazette, for his unprincipled enormity in the matter of the Pentag. a sense of justice constrained me to vindicate him from this ill-founded charge, by assuring my friend, that if, according to the Northern proverb, he has need o' a lang-shankit spune that sups kail wi' the deil, so he requires a sharp-pointed pen who corrects proofs for him, and the deuce of it is, my dear fellow, I added, that after you have revised your proof as clean as a whistle, and got to bed with eyes and fingers wearied and aching at four o'clock in the morning, you find next day, as I know by sad experience, that the paper is published with half your corrections newly blundered, and the last state of your article is worse than the first. Besides, continued I, forgetting my just causes of indignation, and waxing warm in my advocacy of him whom I once rejoiced to call my friend, you know such *infernal* concerns are quite too "base and mechanical" for the refined and elevated mind of our illustrious president.

By this time we had reached Hayes's, and dinner time. Shades of Kitchener, how odiferous is Calipash—how restorative Mullagatwny. It is not generally known, that Hayes is in possession of the receipt for that valuable sauce, so pathetically described in the Almanach des Gourmands, as one with which "On peñt manger son pere," and although neither I, nor my esteemed friend, had the slightest intention of such an unfilial repast, yet we did commend ourselves to the tender mercies of the he-cook—and elbowing our way through some dozen of booted, spurred, moustached, and spruce-looking heroes, reached a table in safety.

Sans badinage, Hayes's is the only dining-house in town for single gentlemen or parties quarrées—Morrison's is absolute starvation without you dine with the Bee'steak Club, or are vulgar enough for a civic feast.

In the evening we thought of the play, and adjourned to the Theatre. Oh for words to express my esteem and admiration of the manager, he has worked a great and important revolution—the Theatre is no longer the scene of bustle and confusion, no longer is heard the din turmoil and incessant roll of carriages arriving and setting down, there is no crushing, or squeezing, no losing of shawls, and shoes, wigs and waistcoats, all is peaceful, and quiet as the Custom-house, we ascended the broad and dimly lighted stair of the box entrance, to wake the sleeping check taker at the top, and request his acceptance of our billet: we paced the long lobby, and the saloon, but still all was sad and deserted, the only living thing we encountered was a broad fat figure, with a seal skin cap, sucking an orange behind a counter, thinking most probably that home consumption is preferable to dependance upon a foreign market; we placed ourselves in a box near the stage, the reason of our selection being that it was the only one inhabited. Two grave looking old gentlemen occupied the seat before us, whom by their conversation we discovered to be bond-holders, mourning over the melancholy prospects of the house,

Lulled by the drowsy orchestra, in which our old friend the Bass viol seemed to have taken an opiate, we soon fell asleep, and did not awake till it was time to dress for Lady L's soirée, and when next we meet, you shall hear how we spent our evening in town.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Paris, January 30, 1830.

A 17th letter from M. Champollion, dated Thebes, June 26th, appears in the *Moniteur* of Wednesday. M. Champollion announces in this letter having paid a visit to a perfect little temple, called the little temple of Isis, near Ameophiom. Some of the paintings representing Ptolemy Soter the 2nd, the goddess Hathor (Venus) and others, are as perfect as if they had been recently produced, and appear to be in a very good style. From the painting and the sculpture, M. Champollion supposes that this temple was erected by the fifth Ptolemy, two hundred years before Christ. M. Champollion's letter which is very long, is entirely devoted to a description of the temple, which would be uninteresting to the general reader.

A sudden thaw has come on since I last wrote to you; but I do not think it will be of long duration, for it has been partial; and persons most conversant with meteorological affairs state, that we may expect a further and even more severe frost in February.

It has been for some time remarked, that whilst great encouragement was given in Paris to painters, the art of engraving was rapidly losing ground. The publication of the London Annuals, with their splendid graphic illustrations, has, however, created a proper spirit of emulation here; and we may hope to see in another year or two, the same encouragement given to engravers as in England. For the purpose of encouraging this art, a society has just been formed, with a capital of 200,000 francs, which is to be applied to the purchase of engravings, and the distribution of medals and rewards, to successful candidates for the approbation of the society. There are various regulations by which it is expected to keep up the funds of the society, so as not only to maintain the present rate of encouragements and prizes, but even to add to them considerably. The king, and some other members of the royal family, warmly patronize this institution.

Great efforts are making by the French ministry to improve the Cotton and Woollen manufactures: for this purpose persons have been despatched to England, to obtain information; and it is intended to offer premiums for various improvements in the different branches of cotton manufactures.

The Theatres have, on the whole, been pretty well attended, notwithstanding the severity of the weather; but several of them are notoriously in a state of bankruptcy. A good deal of interest has been excited among Theatrical persons, by an application made by the celebrated actress, Jenny Colon, to have the marriage between her and M. Lafonte, annulled, on the ground of its having been contracted without the consent of the mother of Mademoiselle Colon. This marriage, it appears, took place in England last year; and as Mademoiselle Colon was abundantly of age, there would have been no ground for the present application on the score of the non-consent of the mother, but that M. Lafonte was as tired of a wedded life as his wife, and therefore offered no opposition; the consequence was that the lady's prayer was granted.

Thine, X.

London, February 2, 1830.

No work of particular interest has been published since I last wrote you; several, however, are announced for early publication. In the absence of other information, you may not dislike to receive some particulars respecting the new Literary Union Club, slight notices of which have appeared in the newspapers.—This Club, which has now nearly 600 members, was established by Mr. Campbell, the poet, for the purpose of bringing together literary men, and forming a sort of Republic of letters. Originally the entrance money was only 2 guineas, and the yearly subscription 4 guineas; the admission has now been increased to 4 guineas, but without any addition to the yearly subscription. All persons of respectability connected with literature, and also private persons not in trade, are eligible to become members. Among those already on the list, are several persons of title, officers of rank, in the army and navy, members of Parliament, &c. Reporters upon the public press, are excluded, it being considered, that although many of these persons are highly respectable, there are others, who are not so; and, therefore, it would be better to exclude them altogether.—The Committee have engaged the old Athenaeum Club house in Regent-street; but they have been able as yet, only to fit up one room for the reception of the members. In a few days, however, the drawing-rooms will be opened; and in March, the dining-rooms will also be ready.

It is intended that the eating part should be conducted with every regard to economy, but that luxuries shall be provided; and that the cooking shall be as perfect as possible. Their head cook is to receive £300 per annum; and the wines and provisions are to be of the finest quality; yet is expected, that a good dinner of fish, poultry or joint, tart, &c. with a pint of excellent wine, may be had for about 3s. 6d.; coffee, and all other refreshments, will be on the same economical scale. There is to be a conversazione once a week; and it is intended, if possible, to have similar institutions formed in the different capitals of Europe, so that literary men may in their travels find themselves at no loss for good society. The plan has been communicated to some of the leading persons among the literati and artists of Paris and Vienna; and it is expected that Literary Union Clubs on the same principle, will soon be established there. An idea is entertained of having a peculiar waistcoat, to be worn by the members for evening dress in public; but this has not yet been regularly discussed in the committee.

The cold continues to be intense: but it has been remarked by medical men, that the great severity of the weather has not been attended with such fatal effects upon aged and infirm persons, as on former occasions.

The Theatres are pretty well attended; but of the two large ones, the favourite on the whole, excepting the performances of Miss Kemble, appears to be Drury-lane. At Covent Garden, however, the expenditure is said to be less, than at Drury-lane, the system of nightly salaries having been put an end to—except in the engagements of Miss Fanny Kemble, and Lady William Lennox, the former of whom has £50 per night, and the latter, I believe £20. At Drury-lane, Mr. Keane is said to have £60 per night;—an enormous sum certainly upon the whole: but he appears to be worth it to the manager.

Edinburgh, 2nd February.

In the publishing world, nothing very interesting is stirring. Moore's *Life of Byron* is of course the principal topic at all literary parties. Dr. Inglis, one of the most eminent of our Scotch divines, announces a work on the evidences of christianity. I understand that two of your countrymen are preparing works for Constable's *Miscellany*; the one is a *History of Ireland* by John McCaul, Esq. M. A. of Trinity College, Dublin, and the other a *History of Modern Greece*, by Thomas Keightley, Esq. author of "*Fairy Mythology*." The *North Briton*, a new paper to be published twice a week, under the management of Dr. Browne, from whom a good deal is expected, commences its career on Wednesday next. It is in contemplation to establish here a Literary Union, something like that which has recently been set a-going in London; but as yet nothing very decided has been done.

The publication of the *Waverley Novels* proceeds prosperously, the current impression is now 30,000, and the back volumes are bringing up to this as quickly as steam and men's hands can accomplish it.

The new number of the *Edinburgh Review* is printing rapidly, most of the articles seem heavy. There will be a review of the Laureate's *Colloquies*; I dare say nothing complimentary will be said of them, if we may judge from former exhibitions of the spirit of the review. I am afraid the *Edinburgh* is a sinking concern, not 2000 copies are now sold in Scotland. We are absolutely doing nothing here in the literary way at present. The *Waverley Novels*, new edition of the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, and *Blackwood's Magazine*, are all we have to keep us alive.

On Thursday last was held the first public assembly of the season. It was rather gay, though not crowded. On the whole, however, our assemblies here are dull things, terribly deficient in liveliness and spirit. Scotch ladies are never quite sure of themselves when brought into contact with a number of strange faces. They are apt to be stiff and uneasy. Besides they give nothing at these assemblies, but weak tea, and that most insipid of all kinds of biscuit, called "ladies' fingers." It is impossible for any human being to sustain for three hours, an equable flow of spirits upon such food as this. The dancing commonly begins about half past ten, and ends about one. Our fancy balls are better; but Edinburgh is not the place for public assemblies. There are, however, a more than usual number of private parties this winter—many of which are delightful—to those who know how to make them so.

Braham, who was recently in Dublin, makes his appearance here this evening. He is to remain only a week.

ROYAL DUBLIN SOCIETY.

This Society has recently been much occupied with the recommendations respecting their body, contained in the Report of the Committee on Irish Estimates, last session of parliament. The leading features of the regulations recommended by the Committee of the House, were to charge for the Society's lectures, instead of continuing them gratuitously, and to reduce the estimate for any department not yielding, by the price charged for admission, 200l. per annum, at least.

To discontinue the present mode of admission by ballot, and to enable any person to become a member by paying the admission fee and annual subscription, which should be fixed at such sums as might be deemed most expedient. By these means the Committee hoped that the expenses of the Society would be mainly defrayed.

The advice contained in this report remained, like most mere speculative opinions, altogether unheeded, until Lord F. L. Gower addressed a letter to the members of the society, informing them that his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant concurred in the recommendations of the committee, and was of opinion that the society's early and effectual co-operation in the introduction of the new regulations which it suggested, would afford him the best means of recommending in favor of this institution the continuance of that parliamentary support which had hitherto been extended to it.

This letter, it appears, was received during the summer recess of the society, and consequently remained unanswered till it re-assembled in November. A select committee was then appointed to take the subject into immediate consideration, and the result has been a letter in reply to that of Lord F. L. Gower which may be fairly viewed as the society's defence of its character as an institution of national utility, and the justification of its present modes of proceeding in opposition to the alterations recommended by the parliamentary committee, and approved by the Lord Lieutenant, but disapproved by the society itself. We have been favored with a copy of this interesting document; but as it is very long, and we are pressed for space, we shall confine ourselves for the present to a few of the most striking features of the society's case as it is here presented to Lord F. L. Gower, by their assistant-secretary, Mr. Hardman.

"The Royal Dublin Society, desirous of taking this opportunity to lay before your Lordship the general objects of the Institution, and the advantages derived to the public from its establishment, has directed me to state, that the Society maintains five Professors, namely, of Chemistry, of Mineralogy, Mining, Natural Philosophy, and Botany, to give Lectures on these subjects of most extensive practical utility, and has supplied them with apparatus, not only adapted for the illustration of the principles of the Arts and Sciences, but also for the exhibition of experiments, on a scale not attainable by private means."

"A very commodious Theatre has been erected, in which the professors deliver their lectures; this is capable of containing near 500 persons, and it is generally well filled, which the Society considers a gratifying proof of the estimation in which these lectures are held by the public."

"The Schools for instruction in the ornamental arts, form also a branch of the establishment, of great practical utility, comprehending Figure Drawing, Landscape and Ornament, Architecture and Sculpture. The instruction is gratuitous and a ready admission given to all young persons, properly recommended, who evince any talent for those arts."

"The Society feels a pride in adding, that some of the most distinguished masters of the arts of painting and sculpture, were educated in this Institution, and cultivated under the auspices of the Society those talents which have raised them to a high reputation in other countries."

"With respect to the Lectures delivered by the Professors, the Society fears that any produce which they could anticipate from annexing a price to admission, would be so small, as completely to exclude the prospect of any pecuniary advantage worthy of consideration, being derived from that source; the class of persons in the habit of attending these Lectures consists, for the most part, of students, and young persons, in a walk of life too humble to enable them to pay a sufficient sum to realize such an expectation."

"But the Society is perfectly ready to make the experiment of fixing a price for admission to lectures in the department pointed out in the Report of the Committee of the House of Commons."

"With respect to the admission of Members, I am directed to state, that the Society is enjoined, by the express terms of its Charter, to proceed by election; and the Society is humbly of opinion, that this mode of admission has never operated to the injury of the public. In the course of near thirty years there have not been above four instances of the rejection of a candidate; while the number elected since the year 1800 has been 739."

"The Society humbly conceives, that the abandonment of all power of rejection (if it were practicable) would be pregnant with consequences highly injurious, if not absolutely destructive, of the well-being of the Society, and the proper management and government of its internal affairs."

"With respect to the Museum of the Society, it is, in strictness, the National Museum of Ireland, and is an appendage to its establishment particularly valuable in a country poor in such public repositories. It contains collections in the several departments of Natural History, and an interesting assemblage of antiquities and works of art; and in particular, it contains a large collection, every day increasing, of the mineralogical productions of Ireland; and this branch of Natural History is, in fact, indebted to the Society for its introduction into this part of the United Kingdom. It is hoped, that it has some claim to share in the bounty of Parliament, so amply extended to the British Museum, in a city and a country where wealth, and the sources of information, are so far more abundant."

"The protection afforded to the Society by the Irish Legislature was uniform. One of the last acts of the Irish Parliament had for its object the maintenance of the Institution; so large a sum as £15,000 was appropriated, in the year 1800, for the purposes of its establishment; the Parliament thus evincing, in the last hour of its existence, its sense of the value of the Royal Dublin Society—and committing, at the moment of its dissolution, its favourite Institution to the protection of that body to which it was about to transfer the superintendence of the general interests of Ireland."

THE DRAMA.

Mr. Downton has continued to exhibit during the past week, at our Theatre, in all those characters in which he has obtained most celebrity, without, however, attracting what is termed, in theatrical phraseology, 'good houses.'

In Dublin, as well as London, dramatic taste appears to be on the wane, and the managers have, in consequence, been obliged to withdraw the productions of all our best standard authors, in favour of the ephemeral effusions of modern